

Drosera zoneria



D. zoneria in flower. Photo by Allen Lowrie.



D. zoneria showing the concentric arrangement of rosette leaves. Photo by K. W. Dixon and J. S. Pate.

***N. mirabilis* in Australia continued**

Photos by Dr. P. S. Lavarack



A fairly typical form of *N. mirabilis* from near Massy Creek on Cape York Peninsula.



N. mirabilis in flower at Tozer's Gap.

Drosera zonaria in Flower

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In February, 1980 I planted out all my tuberous *Drosera* that had been stored dry over the summer period in plastic bags. The only reason they were planted out then was because the majority of tubers had started to grow.

Tuberous *Drosera* may have a built in time clock. The tubers stored dry in plastic bags — in the house — in the dark at even temperature were just as advanced as those tubers that were left in pots in the glasshouse.

About May, 1980 some of the tuberous *Drosera* were starting to appear in their pots. Among them to my surprise and delight was *D. zonaria* sending up a flower spike. As most of you know, this event for *D. zonaria* is very rare. Up to this day few people have had the opportunity to observe the whole process day by day.

The flower spike, complete with unopened buds, burst through the soil surface. It took only a few days for the flower spike to reach its full height of 4 cm; then, each day a flower opened. On one particular hot day 3 flowers opened at one time. The flower shape and parts

are very similar to *D. erythrorhiza*, except the perfume of *D. zonaria* is stronger and sweeter to the nose. Of the 20 *D. zonaria* tubers planted in February, 1980, three of them flowered.

When all the flowers had faded, the typical *D. zonaria* plant rosette appeared on the flower spike at ground level. As the rosette grew larger it pushed the flower spike over to one side, to the point where it was flat on the soil surface when the rosette had reached full size.

Maybe the reason *D. zonaria* flowered so well was their storage in plastic bags — in which they may have created their own ethylene gas. K. Dixon's studies show that ethylene gas produced by bush fires stimulates mass flowering of some Western Australian tuberous *Drosera*. All the *D. erythrorhiza* tubers I stored the same way as *D. zonaria* flowered. This is one tuberous *Drosera* that needs a bush fire to produce mass flowering.

Next season I intend to store tuberous *Drosera* the same way but this time I plan to introduce an ethylene gas producing agent. Perhaps this will make all my *D. zonaria* flower at the same time.

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conditions in the tropics or in a heated glasshouse in temperate regions. The plants should be kept evenly moist and humid at all times and should preferably be grown in a strong light. Night time temperatures above 15° C. are best for good growth and the plants must be sheltered from winds at all times. They do well in a variety of mixtures but most include peat moss, sphagnum moss, perlite and coarse sand. The medium should remain moist but not soggy after watering.

Propagation from plants in cultivation is best achieved by cuttings as the production of seed requires a male plant

and a female plant to be in flower at the same time.

REFERENCES

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